



Lilly
Adopted September 2012

Behavior Help

House Training

Housetraining

- 🐾 If you are having housetraining problems your first step should always be to contact your veterinarian. Often a house soiling problem is caused by a urinary tract infection. The big secret to successful house training is confinement. Confinement is not a punishment but a preventative measure. Instinctively, dogs do not like to soil their living spaces. However, our houses are usually so large that our dogs can easily find a corner or spare room to use as a toilet. If you keep your dog confined in every part of your home, over time they will realize the entire house is their home. There are several ways to keep them restricted.
- 🐾 When you are not home keep your dog in a crate or in a small room that they are familiar with and comfortable in.
- 🐾 Install baby gates to limit your dog's access in your home.
- 🐾 When you are home and you can watch your dog, keep them on a leash. You can hold onto the leash or use it to tether them in many different places throughout your home. By moving them around they will be confined in all parts of your home and will learn not to eliminate there. While they are tethered make sure they have plenty of toys to keep them occupied. Always supervise your dog when they are tethered. Do not leave them alone.
- 🐾 Periodically take your dog outside to eliminate. Keep the trip short. If they have not eliminated after five minutes take them back inside and restrict them. Wait a half hour and take them outside. When your dog has eliminated, praise them and then play with them. Dogs are very smart. If they know their owner will immediately take them inside when they eliminate, some dogs will hold it to stay outside longer. Reward your dog for eliminating outside with a short play session and they will be in a hurry to go potty outside.

Additional Housetraining Tips

- 🐾 Avoid punishing your dog. Punishment will make house soiling problems worse. When punished for eliminating inside, many dogs learn that they should not eliminate in a person's presence, but that it is fine to "go" if no one is watching. If you see your dog soiling in the house, get them outside immediately. Do not punish them. Praise your dog if they are able to finish eliminating outside. If they have soiled in the house this means that you gave them too much freedom and you need to provide proper restriction.
- 🐾 Do not punish or correct submissive or excitement urination. Instead ignore it. Avoid exciting your dog in any situation where this urination is likely. Avoid towering over them. Instead of waiting for your puppy or dog to ask to go outside take them out on a schedule. Your dog cannot ask to go out until they know they do not want to eliminate in the house. Have realistic expectations. Your dog doesn't instinctively know to eliminate outside. They need to be clearly shown where to eliminate. Remember your dog is not being bad when they have accidents. They are still in the process of learning.
- 🐾 Teaching your dog these simple steps will help to make a better behaved pet and provide you with a lifetime of stress-free and loving companionship.